

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Treated water-absorbing polymer particles ~~consisting of a powdery water-absorbing polymer~~ comprising:

- from about 0.01 to about 20 percent by weight of the polymer of a fine particle with a particle size of less than about 200 μm ;
 - from about 0.001 to less than 0.3 percent by weight of the polymer of a thermoplastic adhesive; and
 - from about 60 to about 99.998 percent by weight of the polymer of a water-absorbing polymer particle with a particle size of about 200 μm and above,
- wherein

wherein the treated water-absorbing polymer particles are prepared by a production process and the fine particles are bound to the surface of the water-absorbing polymer particles by the thermoplastic adhesive during the production process for the treated water-absorbing polymer particles, and the treated water-absorbing polymer particles have either

- a flow value (FFC) comprising from about 1 to about 13 according to the Determination of the FFC Value set forth in the present application, or
- a dust portion comprising at most about 6 according to the Determination of the Dust Portion method set forth in the present application.

2. (Previously Presented) The treated water-absorbing polymer particles according to Claim 1, wherein the flow value (FFC) comprises from about 1 to about 13 and the dust portion comprises at most about 6, respectively based on the total weight of the powdery water-absorbing polymers.

3. (Previously Presented) The treated water-absorbing polymer particles according to Claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic adhesive has a melt temperature according to ISO 11357 of at least about 50 °C.

4. (Previously Presented) The treated water-absorbing polymer particles according to Claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic adhesive has a melt viscosity according to Brookfield (ASTM E 28) with a number 27 spindle at a temperature of about 160°C and less than about 2000 Pas.

5. (Previously Presented) The treated water-absorbing polymer particles according to Claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic adhesive comprises at least about 10 percent by weight of the adhesive of a polycondensate.

6. (Previously Presented) The treated water-absorbing polymer particles according to Claim 5, wherein the polycondensate comprises a polyester.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) The treated water-absorbing polymer particles according to Claim 1, wherein at least about 80 percent by weight of the fine particle comprises an inorganic fine particle.

9. (Previously Presented) The treated water-absorbing polymer particles according to Claim 1, wherein the water-absorbing polymers include secondary crosslinking in a surface region.

10. (Previously Presented) The treated water-absorbing polymer particles according to Claim 9, wherein the surface crosslinking in the surface region comprises crosslinking effected by at least one organic compound or at least one polyvalent metal cation.

Claims 11-17 (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) Treated water-absorbing particles ~~consisting of a powdery water-absorbing polymer~~, obtainable by a process comprising the steps of:

- providing from about 0.01 to about 20 percent by weight of a fine particle with a particle size of less than about 200 μm ;
 - providing from about 0.001 to about 0.3 percent by weight of a thermoplastic adhesive;
 - providing from about 60 to about 99.998 percent by weight of a water-absorbing polymer particle with a particle size of about 200 μm and above;
- and

wherein the treated water-absorbing polymer particles are prepared by a production process, and contacting the fine particle, the thermoplastic adhesive, and the water-absorbing polymer particle with each other at a temperature comprising from about 120 to about 250 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ during the production process for the treated water-absorbing polymer particles.

19. (Previously Presented) The treated water-absorbing polymer particles according to Claim 18 comprising at least one of the following properties:

- P1 a flow value (FFC) comprising from about 1 to about 13; or
- P2 a dust portion comprising at most about 6,
- P3 an attrition index A_i comprising from about 1 to about 17;
- P4 an attrition difference A_d comprising from 0 to about 7; or
- P5 a retention determined according to ERT 441.1-99 comprising at least about 20 g/g.

20. (Previously Presented) The treated water-absorbing polymer particles according to Claim 1, wherein at least about 50 percent by weight of the powdery water-absorbing polymers have a particle size comprising from about 50 to about 2,000 μm .

Claims 21-22 (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) A composite comprising the treated water-absorbing polymer particles according to Claim 1.

24. (Previously Presented) A chemical product comprising the treated water-absorbing polymer particles according to Claim 1.

Claims 25-27 (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) The treated water-absorbing polymer particles according to Claim 9, wherein the water-absorbing polymer particles are contacted with the thermoplastic adhesive and the fine particles during a secondary cross-linking of the water-absorbing polymer particles.

29. (New) A process for producing treated water-absorbing polymer particles comprising the steps of:

- providing from about 0.01 to about 20 percent by weight of a fine particle with a particle size of less than about 200 μm ;
- providing from about 0.001 to less than 0.3 percent by weight of a thermoplastic adhesive;
- providing from about 60 to about 99.998 percent by weight of a water-absorbing polymer particle with a particle size of about 200 μm and above; and
- contacting the fine particle, the thermoplastic adhesive, and the water-absorbing polymer particle with each other at a temperature comprising from about 120 to about 250 $^{\circ}\text{C}$

wherein the treated water-absorbing polymer particles have either

- a flow value (FFC) comprising from about 1 to about 13 according to the Determination of the FFC Value set forth in the present application, or
- a dust portion comprising at most about 6 according to the Determination of the Dust Portion method set forth in the present application.

30. (New) The process for producing treated water-absorbing polymer particles according to Claim 29, wherein the contacting occurs in a continuously conveying mixing oven.

31. (New) The process for producing treated water-absorbing polymer particles according to Claim 30 wherein the oven comprises movable, heated conveying means.

32. (New) The process for producing treated water-absorbing polymer particles according to Claim 29 further comprising providing a secondary crosslinker and contacting the secondary crosslinker with any one of the fine particle, the thermoplastic adhesive, the water-absorbing polymer particle, or any combination of any of the preceding.

33. (New) The process for producing treated water-absorbing polymer particles according to Claim 32 wherein the contacting comprises contacting the secondary crosslinker and the thermoplastic adhesive with the fine particle and the water-absorbing polymer particle.

34. (New) The process for producing treated water-absorbing polymer particles according to Claim 32 wherein at least the secondary crosslinker comprises a liquid phase.

35. (New) The treated water-absorbing polymer particles according to Claim 1, wherein the flow value (FFC) or dust portion in said powdery water-absorbing polymer is altered by the process comprising adding a thermoplastic adhesive to the powdery water-absorbing polymer.

36. (New) The treated water-absorbing polymer particles according to Claim 1, wherein said treated water-absorbing polymer particles are transported according to a transport process comprising flowing the treated water-absorbing polymer particles according to Claim 1 through a channel.

37. (New) The treated water-absorbing polymer particles according to Claim 1, wherein the flow value (FFC) or dust portion in said powdery water-absorbing polymer is altered by a process comprising adding a thermoplastic adhesive to the powdery water-absorbing polymer.